(b) if so, what are the reasons for the RBI for not laying down any guidelines;

(c) whether the RBI is aware that the banks have engaged agents on a contractual basis to recover such loans from the consumers;

(d) whether the RBI has allowed banks to hire strong arm agents to recover loans through highly questionable ways; and

(e) if so, whether RBI will review its policies on these matters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has laid down guidelines for lending to different sectors of the economy by public sector banks. Every bank has a well-defined loan policy duly approved by their respective Board of Directors. Banks, however, exercise their commercial judgement in lending to different sectors including consumer loans.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Outstanding Loans of Banks

†56. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Nationalised Banks outstanding against big and medium industrial houses and since when;

(b) what steps Government have taken for its recovery and when such steps were taken; and

(c) by when the said amount is likely to be recovered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The total outstanding amount of scheduled commercial banks against big and medium industrial houses is about Rs. 247210 crores, out of which Rs. 29109.89 crores pertains to weak and sick large and medium scale industries.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Government of India and Reserve Bank of India have stipulated certain steps for recovery of loans which *inter-alia* include evolving and implementing a recovery policy by banks, filing of suits in civil courts/ DRTs, compromise settlement and monitoring and follow up of NPAs at various levels. Credit Information Bureau has been set up to disseminate information on borrowers among the banks. Corporate Debt Restructuring (CDR) scheme has been put in place to provide a transparent mechanism for restructuring of corporate debts of viable entities facing problems due to internal and external factors. Asset Reconstruction Company (India Ltd.) has been incorporated for the purpose of addressing Non-performing Assets. The recent amendment of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 has further strengthened the recovery process of the Banks.

(c) The recovery of outstanding amount is a continued process and banks are making concerted efforts to recover their dues through various means including the legal means available to them.

SC's Ruling on Power of States to Levy Luxury Tax

57. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent Supreme Court ruling that States cannot impose luxury tax on goods like cigarettes, ghutkas, etc.;

(b) if so, how the loss being suffered by the States by non-mopping up of luxury tax amounting to about Rs. 2500/- crores is likely to be offset;

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) whether a revision petition is proposed to be filed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Luxury Tax on goods was levied by State Governments. Therefore, any action in this regard is to be taken by the State Governments.